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to preserve the United States government, as because he believed that the preservation of that government was necessary to the triumph of democracy. Lord Charnwood's experience in public affairs makes him a keen judge of the scope of Lincoln's responsibility for the conduct of the administration. His recognition of the force of public opinion, of the necessity of trusting subordinates, of neglecting the important for the more important, bring into all the clearer relief the extent of Lincoln's guidance, and his inflexibility on essentials. His inclusion of war strategy among the subjects upon which Lincoln kept a firm and wise grasp, will surprise most readers, but it accords with the most recent studies in military history. The aphorism "So humorous a man was also unlikely to be too conceited to say his prayers", applies to Lord Charnwood as well as to Lincoln, in that he gives serious attention to the religious feeling that developed so strongly in Lincoln as the war progressed. So naturally is this development, as that of Lincoln's character as a whole, evolved with the progress of the war, that the reader is almost as surprised at the final judgment of the author as were the American people at their own in April, 1865.

It should be obvious that this book is not milk for babes. It is intended for the intelligent, whether they are informed or not, but not for the informed unless they are intelligent. It does not give a complete narrative, but discusses almost all Lincoln's serious problems and the serious problems about him. The style is necessarily subtle, but is also clear, and is rich in epigrams. The latter flow naturally and are not strained, unless it be occasionally in the case of some of the associated characters. On these men Lord Charnwood is always interesting, but his knowledge of them tends to diminish as the ratio of their distance from Lincoln increases, and he is less well read with regard to Southerners. He is generally appreciative and seldom unjust, but he does not hesitate to judge harshly, and he perceives too great a distance between Lincoln and any of the others really to please their families.

CARL RUSSELL FISH.

Third Party Movements since the Civil War, with Special Reference to Iowa: a Study in Social Politics. By FRED E. HAYNES. (Iowa City, Iowa: The State Historical Society. 1916. Pp. xii, 564.)

THE importance of the rôle played by third parties in American political history since the Civil War is becoming more and more evident as one after another of the propositions advocated by these independent organizations are incorporated into the platforms of the older parties. Students of history and politics, therefore, will welcome this comprehensive work treating of the origin, development, and significance of these movements. The Prohibition and Socialist parties having been excluded from consideration for the sake of unity, the material falls

naturally into five parts covering the Liberal Republican, Farmer's, Greenback, Populist, and Progressive movements, respectively. In each part the story of the developments in Iowa has been segregated from the general account and treated more extensively in separate chapters. As Iowa was the centre of interest in some of the movements dealt with, the result is comparable to a presentation of *Hamlet* with Hamlet left out, followed by an epilogue in which the hero plays his part as a soliloquy. It would seem that either an intensive study of these movements in Iowa, with the essential background sketched in where needed, or a unified account of the subject in the country as a whole without special reference to any single state, would have been a more valuable contribution. Attempting to accomplish two things at once, the author has not succeeded in doing either with entire satisfaction.

Anyone who essays to write recent American history from the sources is confronted by such a mass of material that he is practically forced either to restrict himself to a very limited subject or to forego any idea of doing exhaustive work. In the field of this book there are available, among other sources, hundreds of files of contemporary newspapers, many of them special organs of the movement, considered, and a number of extensive collections of personal papers, notably those of Weller, Weaver, and Donnelly. The latter collection alone numbers over fifty thousand documents and would require several months for a thorough examination. The author appears to have chosen the second horn of the dilemma, however. He has dipped into each of these collections here and there, and he has made extensive use of a limited number of newspaper files, but for the greater part of his general information he has relied upon such contemporary compilations as the *Annual Cyclo-pedia* and upon secondary accounts whenever available. For example, in two chapters covering forty pages, the references to the work of a single secondary writer average one to a page. By the liberal use of quotations, skillfully woven together, the work is given somewhat the character of a mosaic. So far as these embody contemporary sentiment their use may be justifiable, but it is difficult to conceive of any good reason why long quotations from secondary writers should be used to tell a story or to express conclusions which the reader would prefer to have in the author's own words. Not always, moreover, is it clear whether or not the quoted matter represents the convictions of the author and almost always it is necessary to hunt for an obscure reference in the back of the book in order to ascertain the source of the quotation.

In spite of these defects of organization and style, the work is an addition to the literature on the last half-century of American history. It brings together in a single volume a large amount of scattered information little known or used by historical writers, and it makes clear the unity and general significance of the third-party movements. Much monographic work will be needed, however, on various phases of the subject in separate states or sections before an entirely satisfactory general account can be written.

As always with the publications of the State Historical Society of Iowa, the book is attractively printed and bound and has an admirable index. The failure to include a bibliography is to be deplored, and the grouping of the notes and references at the end would seem to be an unnecessary concession to the popular reader. This sensitive personage, who is supposed to be annoyed by foot-notes, will probably be equally annoyed by the reference numbers, which run to four figures.

SOLON J. BUCK.

Life of Henry Winter Davis. By BERNARD C. STEINER. (Baltimore: John Murphy Company. 1916. Pp. 416.)

SOME time in the revolving years a man child will be born in these United States equipped by happy chance with the unique combination of qualities that will enable him to make intelligible to the ordinary historical mind the politics of the border slave states during the Civil War and the Reconstruction. Pending the arrival of this exceptional person we have to welcome with hope, however surely doomed to evanescence, any volume that may dissipate any small part of the fog that envelops the subject.

Prima facie Dr. Steiner's *Life of Henry Winter Davis* should let in a strong light on some of the darkest places of politics in Maryland. Davis was one of the most prominent lawyers in the state, and he represented a Baltimore district in the House of Representatives at Washington during most of the stirring decade 1855-1865. He had earlier been a Whig, he entered Congress as an American, or Know-Nothing, and when his legislative career ended he was a member of the Union party, though violently antagonistic to the chief of that party, Abraham Lincoln. To the richness of political experience suggested by this variety of party affiliation was added the peculiar flavor of public life that Baltimore contributed at this period. The salient feature of that city's politics was the activity of certain groups of citizens associated under such cheerful and inspiring names as "Plug Uglies" and "Blood Tubs". The methods of these groups fulfilled the suggestion of their names. Davis was an aristocrat by temper and training, distinguished for reasoning and eloquence that made their chief appeal always to the cultivated intelligence. It was much debated in his day how such a man succeeded as he did in dominating the brutal forces of his constituency. Dr. Steiner gives little more information on this point than is contained in one of Davis's speeches in the House of Representatives—a speech that manifests more partisan zeal than historical candor.

The other salient matter of interest in Davis's political life was his bitter hostility to Lincoln, culminating in the famous attack on the President in 1864, when the first project of Congress for reconstruction of the Southern States was blocked by a pocket veto. Dr. Steiner presents quite frankly the leading facts in this whole matter. Davis, though not a